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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) (Bonn, Germany, 25 - 29 September 2023)  
- Compilation of statements from the European Union and its Member States

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Delegations will find enclosed, for information, in the Annex to this note a compilation of the statements from the EU and its Member States as delivered at ICCM5.

Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM-ICCM5)

(Bonn, 25 – 29 September 2023)

**STATEMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

Distinguished ICCM5 President, Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the President and host of ICCM5, as well as the Bureau members and the Secretariat, for their preparations. Furthermore, we would like to extend our gratitude to the co-chairs, co-facilitators and all stakeholders engaged in the intersessional process, who have worked hard in the past years and in the last days to produce the recommendations that we will consider this week. We would also like to express our gratitude to the city of Bonn for its warm hospitality.

This week will be a decisive step towards achieving sound chemical and waste management at global level, and we acknowledge the great chances and challenges that lie ahead.

Despite the significant actions already taken by stakeholders and governments, scientists continue to express concerns regarding the lack of progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, as hazardous chemicals and waste continue to be released in large quantities, with severe effects on human health and the environment. The Global Chemicals Outlook concludes: Business as usual is not an option. The Global Waste Outlook stresses that proactive leadership is needed to tackle the enormous increase in waste.

For this reason, there is an urgent need to increase our efforts. We remain fully committed to creating and adopting a strong beyond 2020 framework that is visionary, has a broad scope, well-defined strategic objectives and measurable targets together with a measurability structure and the strengthening of capacity-building efforts.

Our expectations for ICCM5 are very high, since the current circumstances require determined actions. The framework will provide a solid enabling foundation for increased multi-sector and multi-stakeholder cooperation and action that will result in the sound management of chemicals and waste globally, and address in particular the pollution dimension of the triple planetary crisis.

As we come together in a spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility, we should underline and confirm our commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As outlined in the European Green Deal, the EU and its Member States stand ready to work together with you, to enhance the protection of citizens and the environment from harmful chemicals and waste, while fostering innovation by encouraging the use of safer and more sustainable options.

Shared goals are important for addressing pollution aspects of the triple planetary crisis for current and future generations. Together, we can pave the way for a new era in chemicals and waste management.

We wish all participants fruitful meetings and constructive discussions in the days ahead.

Thank you, Madam President

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## **5(a) Regional and sectoral achievements in the context of working towards the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy and the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on progress in Strategic Approach Implementation during the period 2017-2022 as set out in document ICCM.5/INF/2. We regret the rather low response rate to the progress reporting, which does not allow to draw robust conclusions on the global progress. However, some indicators show positive trends over time in some regions and at global level.

The EU and its Member States are of the view that national and regional implementation is crucial for achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy and for making progress towards achieving target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.

Therefore, the EU adopted in 2019 the Green Deal, which is the new EU strategy for growth. We aim for green growth – economic expansion that allows us to improve protection of our health and our environment at the same time.

The Green Deal sets out an ambition for Zero Pollution by 2050 and for a toxic-free environment. And the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, which was adopted in 2020 was our first deliverable towards this ambition.

It's a Strategy with a clear vision and concrete objectives. It aims at increasing the level of protection, for health and environment, and changing the shape of the industry, making it more sustainable, climate-neutral, circular and toxic-free.

The Chemicals Strategy has three main areas for action: increasing protection, innovation and strengthening the legal framework. This strategy allows the EU to engage constructively on the global stage. To champion high standards, and to promote them around the world.

In 2020 we also adopted the 2nd Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), which takes a future-oriented approach by identifying actions applying circular economy principles along the entire value chain of products, in order to systemically change the way Europe produces and consumes.

As regards chemicals and waste management, we are convinced that we do need a global approach. It's very important to help all our partners step up their sustainability efforts. In this context, we are planning to adapt our legislation, to ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the EU can't be produced for export to non-EU countries either.

Our objective is to work with all stakeholders, so that we can deliver on this vision of a toxic-free environment. We aim at maximising the safe contribution of chemicals to society, and avoiding harm to the planet and to future generations.

We started by setting the example at home, but we do not limit our ambition and action to Europe – we go global. The chemicals industry is highly dynamic – it will continue to grow and move to other places. This creates new challenges and requires global responses.

The global community recognised the importance of sound chemicals and waste management, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda and its target 12.4. We now aim at making another important step at global level by adopting an improved enabling framework on chemicals and waste management that is designed to help countries in their efforts to make progress at national level towards achieving target 12.4.

The improved enabling framework on sound management of chemicals and waste, supported by strong multilateral action, will be an important step in addressing the triple planetary crisis and in particular pollution!

